



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY  
REGION 6  
1445 ROSS AVENUE, SUITE 1200  
DALLAS, TEXAS 75202 – 2733

Office of the Regional Administrator

October 12, 2017

The Honorable Gene Green  
House of Representatives  
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Congressman Green:

Thank you for your letter of September 26, 2017, to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency expressing concerns about possible toxic spills from the U.S. Oil Recovery Superfund Site during Hurricane Harvey. Since Texas falls within the jurisdiction of Region 6, your letter was forwarded to me for reply. As outlined below and in the attached response to the specific questions in your letter, the EPA does not believe there is evidence of a release of toxic materials from this site during Hurricane Harvey.

The Site is located in Pasadena, Texas, and consists of two properties: a former municipal wastewater treatment facility at 200 North Richey Street; and, a former waste oil recycling facility at 400 North Richey Street. The EPA directed the Potentially Responsible Parties to secure the Site prior to the August 25, 2017, landfall of Hurricane Harvey.

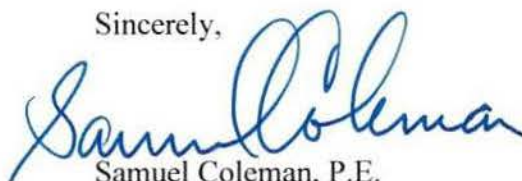
On August 29, 2017, the PRPs reported that the former wastewater treatment plant was flooded due to Hurricane Harvey. On September 4, 2017, EPA staff conducted an onsite inspection to assess conditions at the Site as a whole, and directed the PRPs to collect samples from the Site to determine if there were releases of toxic materials. The PRP Group collected water samples from the former wastewater treatment vessels as instructed by the EPA on September 5, 2017. The sample results had extremely low concentrations of organic chemicals and metals and were below the safe drinking water standards established by the EPA. Based on the on-site inspection and sampling results, there is no evidence of any toxic discharge or material released from the Site.

On September 9, 2017, the PRPs reported that on September 6, 2017, there was a spill of an unknown quantity of stormwater from the former wastewater treatment facility. Also on September 9, 2017, the PRPs reported a 200-gallon discharge of stormwater on September 7, 2017, from the former wastewater treatment facility.

On September 11, 2017, EPA had received all analytical results showing no evidence of a release. On September 13, 2017, in response to inquiries about a possible oil spill, EPA conducted an inspection of nearby Vince Bayou and did not find any evidence of a discharge of material from the Site. On September 16, 2017, Site conditions were stabilized and the Site transitioned back to normal operations.

More details and specific answers to your questions, requested in your letter, are provided in the enclosures to this letter. If you have any further questions, please contact me at (214) 665-2100, or your staff may contact Mr. Austin Vela, Congressional Liaison, at (214) 665-9792.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Samuel Coleman". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Samuel" and last name "Coleman" clearly distinguishable.

Samuel Coleman, P.E.  
Acting Regional Administrator

Enclosures (3)

cc: House Committee on Energy and Commerce  
Senate Committee on Environment and Public Works